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## CAMPAIGN FINANCE DIVISION

☒ WAIVER REQUEST

☐ RECONSIDERATION REQUEST

DATE: 1/14/2021

DOCKET #: 2021-038

### FILER INFORMATION

Name: Mark David Chiasson  
Office: City Judge, City Court, City of Thibodaux  
Parish: LAFOURCHE  
Election Date: 11/3/2020  
Level of Office: District

### REPORT INFORMATION

Name of Report: 30-P  
Original Due Date: 10/5/2020  
Date Filed: 10/14/2020  
Activity Receipts:  
Expenditures:  
Funds at Close of Reporting Period:

### LATE FEE INFORMATION

Amount of Late Fee: \$540  
Days Late: 9  
Late Fee Order Received: 11/9/2020  
Payment/Waiver Request Due Date: 11/30/2020  
Waiver Request Received: 11/12/2020  
Additional Information Requested:  
- Medical  
- Financial  
- Other

COMMENTS: Upon learning of the report not being filed, he immediately contacted the Board of Ethics to inquire about the matter, and filed the report. In speaking with staff, he learned that several other Judges did not file the report on time, as they, like him, thought the report was not necessary due to being unopposed. When he received the packet from the Clerk of Court upon qualifying, it contained a letter indicating that the financial disclosure statement that we file annually, wasn't due if previously filed. Apparently, he incorrectly read that letter to mean that nothing was to be filed. His failure to file the Campaign Finance Report was purely accidental, and take full responsibility. However, his mistake was due to confusion regarding what financial statements were required. If he had known, the report would have been filed in advance of October 5, 2020.

### OTHER LATE FEE INFORMATION

Campaign Finance:

Other Outstanding Reports: No  
Other Outstanding Late Fees: No  
Prior Late Fees: Yes  
Reassessed Late Fees: No

Disclosure Statements:

Other Outstanding Late Fees: No  
Prior Late Fees: No

MARK D. CHIASSON  
JUDGE

HARLEY J. GROS  
MARSHAL



**CITY COURT  
CITY OF THIBODAUX, LA**

1309 CANAL BLVD.  
P. O. BOX 568  
THIBODAUX, LA 70302

(985) 446-7238  
FAX (985) 446-7275  
email: reginah\_citycourt@yahoo.com

REGINA HOTARD  
CLERK

JESSICA STEIN  
DEPUTY CLERK

LISA BATTAGLIA  
DEPUTY CLERK

SARA PEARSON  
DEPUTY CLERK

ALLISON GROS  
DEPUTY CLERK

LORI KRAEMER  
DEPUTY CLERK

November 18, 2020

**Via Telefax: 225-381-7271**  
State of Louisiana  
Department of State of Civil Service  
Louisiana Board of Ethics  
P.O. Box 4368  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing this letter to dispute the assessment against me in regard to the letter attached hereto, whereby the Louisiana Board of Ethics states that I owe \$540.00 due to the late filing of my campaign finance report. It is my understanding that a finance report was due by October 5, 2020; however, my report was filed nine (9) days late.

Please note that upon my learning of the report not being filed, I immediately contacted the Board of Ethics to inquire about the matter, and thereafter, filed the report immediately.

In speaking with Michelle Andrieu, who was extremely professional and helpful, I learned that several other Judges did not file the report on time, as they, like me, thought that the report was not necessary due to being unopposed in the upcoming election. When I received the packet from the Clerk of Court in Lafourche Parish upon qualifying, it contained a letter indicating that the financial disclosure statement that we file annually, was not due if it had been filed previously. Apparently, I incorrectly read that letter to mean that nothing was to be filed. Obviously, the Campaign Finance Report was required.

My failure to file the Campaign Finance Report was purely accidental, and I take full responsibility for doing so. However, my mistake was due to confusion regarding what financial statements were required. If I had known, the report would have been filed in advance of October 5, 2020.

Louisiana Board of Ethics  
November 18, 2020  
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In addition, it took nine (9) days for me to receive your letter explaining the delinquency. If I had been advised earlier, the amount owing would be tremendously less.

Therefore, due to the above, I am requesting a waiver of the late fee.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark D. Chiasson', written over a large, loopy flourish that starts under the word 'Sincerely,' and extends to the right.

Mark D. Chiasson  
Judge, City Court of Thibodaux

MDC/hbb



STATE OF LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE  
**LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**

P. O. BOX 4368  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70821  
(225) 219-5600  
FAX: (225) 381-7271  
1-800-842-6630  
www.ethics.la.gov

November 2, 2020

Mark David Chiasson  
1309 Canal Blvd.  
Thibodaux, LA 70301

**CERTIFIED MAIL**

**NO. 70200640000105665000**

**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

RE: Late fee assessment for the November 3, 2020 Election  
30-P Campaign Finance Disclosure Report filed 9 days late

Dear Mark David Chiasson:

Enclosed is an assessment of a late fee pursuant to La R.S. 18:1505.4 and La. R.S. 18:1511.4.1. Please submit a check or money order in the amount of \$540 payable to the Treasurer of the State of Louisiana to P. O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821. Please note that late fees can only be paid by the candidate or by his campaign.

You have 20 days from receipt of this letter to dispute this assessment. You may elect to do either or both of the following:

1. You may submit your request for a waiver to the attention of the Louisiana Board of Ethics.

Waivers are handled by the Ethics Board. The Board of Ethics may reduce, suspend, or decline to waive a late fee assessment based on the cause shown by the person, candidate, or political committee. If you submit a request for a waiver of the late fee to the Board of Ethics, your request should contain details as to why, in your opinion, you have good cause why your report was not timely filed. Also, if you would like to appear before the Board of Ethics in connection with your request, you should state that in your letter. The request should be submitted to the attention of the Board of Ethics at the following address: P. O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 or fax at (225) 381-7271.

2. You may appeal the assessment directly to the Ethics Adjudicatory Board (EAB).

Appeals to the EAB are proceedings before a three judge panel. The determination is made regarding whether the person, candidate, or political committee was required to file the report and whether the report was filed late. Mitigating factors are not considered during an EAB proceeding. The EAB does not have the authority to reduce, suspend, or waive a late fee assessment. If you choose to appeal the assessment to the EAB, you should submit your request for an appeal to the attention of the Executive Secretary of the Louisiana Board of Ethics at P. O. Box 4368, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 or fax at (225) 381-7271.

If you timely submit a waiver request or appeal, your name will not be posted on the website pending the result of your appeal. Furthermore, if you request an appearance, you will be notified of the place and time prior to the meeting.

If you do not pay or dispute the assessment of the late fee within 20 days from the receipt of this letter, the matter will be forwarded to the Attorney General's Office to pursue collection. If the matter is forwarded to the Attorney General's Office for collection, you may be responsible for all additional costs incurred. Additionally, late fees not paid by the due date will be posted on the agency website.

*You should be aware that unpaid campaign finance fines, fees or penalties may have an adverse effect on your ability to run for public office in the future, as the Board of Ethics will object to your future qualifications for candidacy for public office pursuant to La. R.S. 18:491 and R.S. 18:492.*

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Melissa Horn

**STATE OF LOUISIANA LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**  
**acting in its capacity as the**  
**SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE DISCLOSURE**

**In Re:       Mark David Chiasson**  
**November 3, 2020 Election**

**LATE FEE ASSESSMENT ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, Mark David Chiasson, in his capacity as a candidate for City Judge, City Court, City of Thibodaux in the November 3, 2020 election was required to file campaign finance reports pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1484.

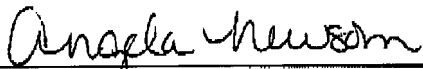
**WHEREAS**, La. R.S. 18:1505.1 provides that it is a violation of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act to fail to timely file campaign finance reports.

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1495.4B(3), Mark David Chiasson was required to file a 30th Day Prior to Primary Report (30-P) by October 5, 2020. Mark David Chiasson filed the report on October 14, 2020 and was 9 days late.

**WHEREAS**, La. R.S. 18:1505.4A(2)(a)(ii) provides that an automatic late fee of \$60 per day (not to exceed \$2,000) be assessed against Mark David Chiasson for this late filing.

**ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED** that a late fee of \$540 is assessed against Mark David Chiasson for failure to timely file his campaign finance disclosure report.

**ORDER** signed on the 2nd day of November 2020 at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Newsom, Director  
Campaign Finance & Lobbying Division

**FAX COVER SHEET**DATE: 11/18/20ORIGINAL MAILED: YES\_\_ NO XFAX NUMBER: 225-381-7271

PLEASE DELIVER THIS FAX

TO: Louisiana Board of Ethics

OF: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: Mark D. Chiasson

REGARDING: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET: 5

IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE WITH THIS FAX OR YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL OF THE PAGES, PLEASE CALL (985) 447-4101.

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